

## City Hall Blue Ribbon Committee (CHBRC)

### Meeting #2 Summary

September 16, 2020

Zoom Video Meeting

CHBRC Present: Val Ballestrem, Donna Baten, April Gracz, Alicia Hamilton, Greg Hemer, Haley McCoy, Tory McVay, Tracy Orvis, Wilda Parks, Mark Stehn, Nancy Tice

CHBRC Absent: Tina Fuenmayor, Martha Germany

City Staff: City Recorder Scott Stauffer, Community Engagement Coordinator Jason Wachs, Development Project Manager Alison Wicks

Audience: Elvis Clark

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Committee members introduced themselves and reported how they had distracted themselves during the ongoing coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and wildfires.

The group reviewed the summary notes from the committee's first meeting. It was noted that Councilor Parks had been left off the attendee list and would be added. There were no other changes proposed.

**Mr. Stauffer** and **Ms. Wicks** acknowledged that the committee had received a letter from Mr. Clark regarding the deed restriction on the city hall site requiring part of the site to be dedicated for use as a park. They noted that the deed restriction would be part of the committee's future discussions.

### **Charter Discussion, Continued**

The group reviewed the draft committee charter and the changes proposed at the first meeting. It was noted that no further changes were proposed, and the final version would be posted online.

### **State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Presentation**

**Robert Olguin**, SHPO National Register and Tax Programs Coordinator, provided an overview of SHPO's role in the repurposing of historic publicly owned buildings. He noted who should be involved, what the mitigation process looked like, and what state and federal rules need to be considered when evaluating a new use for a historic building.

The group discussed the applicability of state preservation laws on the interior and exterior of a building and noted how involved SHPO could be in determining renovation design elements.

**Mr. Hemer**, **Mr. Stauffer**, and **Ms. Orvis** commented on the possibility of finding and using historic preservation documentation and analysis that had been done for the planned, but canceled, renovation of the city hall fire bay.

The group noted that a historic preservation review process can take up to a year. They remarked on whether the city had undergone such a process for the recent sale of the Pond House property. **Mr. Olguin** reported that consulting SHPO was free, but the city may want to hire a preservation expert to help prepare the required documentation and forms.

### **SHPO Work on the Ledding Library Project**

**Ms. Wicks** provided an overview of how the city's new Ledding Library building had mitigated the loss of the previous historic library structure by including cultural and historical displays and design elements.

### **Community Engagement Strategy**

**Ms. Wicks** provided a summary of the public engagement ideas and activities suggested by the committee at the first meeting. She reviewed the CHBRC's work schedule and noted first public engagement event, a community values open house exercise, was scheduled for fall 2020. She explained that due to the pandemic the event would be held online.

**Mr. Wachs** discussed the logistics of conducting online engagement events and noted virtual tools and software that could be used. The group remarked on the importance of reaching out to specific groups in the community and several members offered the use of their work and/or community groups to help promote the online open house.

**Mr. Hemer** noted that former City Councilor Scott Churchill, an architect, had given a presentation on city hall's architectural history during the building's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2013. **Mr. Stauffer** noted he would find Councilor Churchill's video and share it with the committee.

To view the program and presentation videos from the 2013 City Hall 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Celebration, click here: <https://www.milwaukieoregon.gov/cityrecorder/city-hall>.

**Ms. Wicks** asked for volunteers to help review the questions to be posed in the online open house. It was noted that Ms. Tice, Mr. Ballestrem, Ms. Hamilton, and Mr. McVay volunteered to review the questions.

**Ms. Wicks** remarked on the importance of promoting the online open house through the committee's neighborhood, community, and professional groups. **Mr. Hemer** noted that he and **Ms. McCoy** could provide the committee with access to the Milwaukie Historical Society's files on city hall.

### **Wrap-up and Next Steps**

The group noted next steps and scheduling the next committee meeting in October 2020.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.